

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 40-48 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4-6, 9, 10 and 48 are amended, and claim 11 is canceled. Claims 1 and 4 are amended to correct a typographical informality (inserting "image" where appropriate), and claims 4-6, 9, 10 and 48 are amended to address the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101.

Examiner Henn is thanked for discussing this application during a January 19 telephone conference. The Examiner tentatively agreed, subject to internal PTO review of this Amendment, that the above amendments overcome the §101 rejection.

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-3, 7, 8 and 40-47, and the indication that claims 4-6, 9, 10 and 48 would be allowable once amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §101 rejection.

Claims 4-6, 9, 10 and 48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101. Applicants submit that these claims have been amended to overcome the rejection. In particular, the claims now recite that the recording medium is "computer-readable" and that the program stored on the recording medium causes the computer to execute the claimed functions. Accordingly, and in accordance with Annex IV of the PTO Interim Guideline, mentioned in the Office Action, claims 4-6, 9, 10 and 48 are directed to functional descriptive material recorded on a computer-readable medium, which is statutory subject matter. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

The rejection of claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is moot by the cancellation of claim 11.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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MAC/ccs

Date: February 8, 2007

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